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THE CHICAGO COMMUNITY TRUST ANNOUNCES THE RETURN OF “ON THE TABLE”

*May 10 mealtime conversations across Chicagoland will unite residents,
inspire new solutions to strengthen the region*

CHICAGO – February 23, 2016 – The Chicago Community Trust today announced the return of its region-wide civic engagement initiative [On the Table](#) on Tuesday, May 10. *On the Table*, entering its third year, has provided a platform for Chicago-area residents – 40,000 total over the past two years – to come together as a community in small groups and talk about ways to make their neighborhoods stronger, safer and more dynamic.

On the Table is designed to elevate civic conversation, foster new relationships and create a unifying experience across our region.

“When we come together as a community with a shared commitment to listen, we learn from and with each other. We form and deepen our relationships with neighbors, friends and co-workers,” said Terry Mazany, president and CEO of The Chicago Community Trust. “From these relationships we will draw the collective power to impact both neighborhoods and lives.”

The Trust launched its *On the Table* initiative in May of 2014 to elevate the invaluable act of convening for meaningful conversation – no matter the topic, location or time of day. The premise of *On the Table* in 2016 remains the same. Mealtime conversations – breakfast, lunch, dinner and everything in between – can take place at private residences, local restaurants, places of worship, libraries, offices, in backyards and other community locations. They can be sit-down, catered, picnic, or potluck – it is entirely up to the host on how the meal is designed.

“This act of coming together has never been more important and we encourage residents to join us by hosting an *On the Table* conversation,” said Cheryl Hughes, senior director of strategic initiatives at The Chicago Community Trust. “These conversations will inspire collaboration and action as they have in years past, driving progress across the region.”

The Trust aims to engage more individuals this year than ever, expanding *On the Table*’s diverse reach to ensure that all Chicago-area residents have an opportunity to have their voice heard. The Trust will offer a number of information sessions throughout the region leading up to May 10, as a way to share information about *On the Table* and what it means to host a conversation. Dates, times and locations can be found at www.onthetable.eventbrite.com.

To learn more or to sign up to host an *On the Table* conversation, visit www.onthetable.com or call 866-737-6951. Join the *On the Table* 2016 conversation on social media using the hashtag #OnTheTable2016.

For additional media resources and downloads, visit: <https://onthetable.com/news-releases-media-downloads>.

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About The Chicago Community Trust

[The Chicago Community Trust](#), our region's community foundation, partners with donors to leverage their philanthropy in ways that transform lives and communities. For the past century, the Trust has connected the generosity of donors with community needs by making grants to nonprofit organizations working to improve metropolitan Chicago. Since our founding, the Trust has awarded approximately \$1.8 billion in grant funding to more than 11,000 local nonprofit organizations – including more than \$164.5 million in 2014. Our region is home to people passionate about their neighborhoods. People committed to making a difference. People divided by a legacy of segregation, separated by lines of class and race and opportunity – but there is much more that unites us than divides us. As the Trust begins our next century of service, we pledge to bridge these divisions and to champion the common good, creating a place where no one is left behind.